

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

-----X  
BASYA LEVY,

Plaintiff,

-against-

JPMORGAN CHASE & COMPANY,

Defendant.  
-----X

Civil No:

**COMPLAINT FOR  
VIOLATIONS OF THE  
TELEPHONE CONSUMER  
PROTECTION ACT**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff BASYA LEVY, (“Plaintiff”), by and through her attorneys, Marcus & Zelman, LLC, brings this Complaint against the Defendant JPMORGAN CHASE & COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as “Defendant” or “Chase”), respectfully sets forth, complains and alleges, upon information and belief, the following:

**INTRODUCTION/PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. Plaintiff brings this action on her own behalf for damages and declaratory and injunctive relief arising from the Defendant’s violations under Title 47 of the United States Code, §227 commonly known as the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).
2. The TCPA prohibits auto-dialed calls which are placed to a called party’s cellular phone without that party’s consent. Senator Hollings, the TCPA's sponsor, described these auto-dialed calls as “the scourge of modern civilization. They wake us up in the morning; they interrupt our dinner at night; they force the sick and elderly out of bed; they hound us until we want to rip the telephone out of the wall.”

*Osorio v. State Farm Bank, F.S.B.*, 746 F.3d 1242, 1255-56 (11th Cir. 2014), *citing*, 137 Cong. Rec. 30,821 (1991).

3. Even if prior consent was given, a consumer has a right to revoke that consent. *See, Gager v. Dell Financial Services, LLC*, 727 F.3d 265 (3rd Cir. 2013).
4. In 1991, Congress responded to these abuses by passing the TCPA. In enacting the TCPA, Congress made findings that telemarketing had become “pervasive due to the increased use of cost-effective telemarketing techniques.” *See*, PL 102-243, § 2(1). “Residential telephone subscribers consider automated or prerecorded telephone calls, regardless of the content or the initiator of the message, to be a nuisance and an invasion of privacy.” *Id.* § 2(10). The TCPA’s findings also reflect Congress’s conclusion that “[i]ndividuals’ privacy rights, public safety interests, and commercial freedoms of speech and trade must be balanced in a way that protects the privacy of individuals and permits legitimate telemarketing practices.” *Id.* § 2(9). Consumers who receive these unauthorized calls thus have suffered a distinct privacy-related interest, namely the “intentional intru[sion] . . . upon their solitude or seclusion of their private affairs or concerns.” *Intrusion Upon Seclusion*, Restatement (Second) of Torts § 652B (1977).

### **PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff is a natural person who resides in Ocean County, New Jersey.
6. Defendant is a national bank with its headquarters located at 153 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 USC §1331.

8. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

**ALLEGATIONS OF FACTS**

9. Plaintiff repeats, reiterates and incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs with the same force and effect as if the same were set forth at length herein.

10. On information and belief, on a date better known to the Defendant, Defendant began its campaign of communicating with via the use of an automated telephone dialing system and prerecorded messages throughout the past four years by calling Plaintiffs cellular telephone phone number of (732) 204-3494 on hundreds of occasions.

11. Defendant called from multiple numbers including but not limited to, 402-220-4351, 210-520-6400 and 847-426-9203.

12. Plaintiff is the customary and sole user of the cellular phone number (732) 204-3494, and has been the customary and sole user of that phone number at all times relevant hereto.

13. Plaintiff on multiple occasions told the Defendant to stop her cellular telephone, including on or around November 11, 2016.

14. During the November 11, 2016 phone call, Plaintiff provided the Defendant's customer service representative with the information necessary to verify her account, and then advised the Defendant's representative: "I'm getting a lot of phone calls on my cell phone and I really want these calls to stop. If you can please stop calling me, and just let me know what the issue is."

15. Defendant's representative advised the Plaintiff that her credit card was past due

and over limit, and that until a payment was received and posted to the account the Plaintiff would continue to receive calls from the Defendant. Plaintiff responded that “I don’t want those calls” to which the Defendant’s representative responded by falsely stating that the calls are “their way of letting you know that your account with them has been past due on the account, and they are required to notify you of that status by law.”

16. Despite Plaintiff’s multiple requests for the harassing calls to stop, Defendant continued to call Plaintiff’s cellular telephone on hundreds of occasions with an automated telephone dialing system and with pre-recorded messages.

17. Defendant’s pre-recorded messages would typically state, in a automated robotic voice:

“This is an important message from Chase Card Services. Please return this call today, at 1(866)301-9838. Thank you.”

18. Defendant’s use of an automated telephone dialing system was further clearly indicated by the fact that no customer service representative was on the line immediately when the Plaintiff would answer the Defendant’s calls and because Defendant left pre-recorded voicemails on the Plaintiff’s phone.

19. By placing auto-dialed phone calls to the Plaintiff’s cell phone, the Defendant violated 47 USC §227(b)(A)(iii) which prohibits using any automated telephone dialing system or an artificial prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service.

20. Plaintiff suffered actual damages because the Defendant’s calls to her cell phone deprived him of the use of her cellular phone during the times that the Defendant

was calling her cellular phone, depleted the battery life of the cellular telephone, and invaded on the Plaintiff's right to privacy and seclusion, the very harm that Congress sought to prevent by enacting the TCPA.

21. The Defendant's repeated calls further caused the Plaintiff to be harassed, stressed, frustrated and annoyed. The Defendant's repeated calls further interrupted the Plaintiff's day and wasted the Plaintiff's time spent answering and otherwise addressing these repeated and unwanted phone calls.
22. Defendant's communication efforts attempted and/or directed towards the Plaintiff violated various provisions of the TCPA, including but not limited to 47 USC §227(b)(A)(iii).
23. As a result of Defendant's violations of the TCPA, Plaintiff has been damaged and is entitled to damages in accordance with the TCPA.

#### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

24. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of the Complaint as though fully stated herein.
25. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants constitute numerous and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b) *et seq.*
26. As a result of Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b) *et seq.* Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 for each and every negligent violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)3.
27. As a result of Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b) *et seq.* Plaintiff is entitled to an award of treble damages \$1,500.00 for each and every knowing

and/or willful violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)3.

**DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

28. Plaintiff hereby respectfully requests a trial by jury for all claims and issues in its Complaint to which it is or may be entitled to a jury trial.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants as follows:

A. For mandatory statutory damages of \$500 each provided and pursuant to 47 USC §227(c)(2)(G)(3)(B), for all phone calls placed to the Plaintiff's cellular phone;

B. Plaintiff requests enhanced trebled damages of \$1,500 to be awarded to the Plaintiff per call, in accordance with the TCPA, for the Defendant's willful violations of the TCPA;

C. For any such other and further relief, as well as further costs, expenses and disbursements of this action, as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: August 23, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Yitzchak Zelman  
Yitzchak Zelman, Esq.  
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

**DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: August 23, 2017

/s/ Yitzchak Zelman

Yitzchak Zelman, Esq.

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 11.2**

I, Yitzchak Zelman, the undersigned attorney of record for Plaintiff, do hereby certify to my own knowledge and based upon information available to me at my office, the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action now pending in any court or in any arbitration or administrative proceeding.

Dated: August 23, 2017

/s/ Yitzchak Zelman

Yitzchak Zelman, Esq.